

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: GRAND MOUND COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY	DOCKET NO. TCU-04-12
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ORDER REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

(Issued August 27, 2004)

On July 19, 2004, Grand Mound Communications Company (GMCC) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.29 (2003), to provide landline local exchange service in the DeWitt, Low Moor, and Charlotte, Iowa, exchanges as well as each of the local exchange areas being served by Qwest Corporation (Qwest). In support of its application, GMCC proposes to provide telecommunications services by means of its own facilities and, if facilities are not available, by means of resale and unbundled network elements. GMCC also states that it is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone Association (Grand Mound), one of Iowa's independent incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs).

Upon review of GMCC's application, the Board is concerned that approval of GMCC's application could lead to a wasteful use of Iowa's telephone number resources. GMCC's parent, Grand Mound, is a petitioner in combined Docket Nos. SPU-04-3, SPU-04-5, and SPU-04-6, where petitioners seek to suspend or modify federal requirements for local number portability (LNP). According to GMCC's application, it appears that GMCC plans to provide local exchange telephone

services in the DeWitt, Low Moor, and Charlotte, Iowa, exchanges by overbuilding its facilities. Iowa Telecommunications Services, Inc., d/b/a Iowa Telecom (Iowa Telecom), is the ILEC in these exchanges and, according to information filed in Docket No. SPU-04-8, Iowa Telecom's petition to suspend federal LNP requirements, the DeWitt, Low Moor, and Charlotte exchanges are currently LNP capable and number-pooling capable.

Because DeWitt, Low Moor, and Charlotte are in three different rate centers, GMCC would seem to require three NXX codes (i.e., 30,000 telephone numbers) to provide overbuilt telephone service in those exchanges unless GMCC's switch was LNP capable and number-pooling capable. The Board has reviewed the utilization of Iowa Telecom's three NXX codes for DeWitt, Low Moor, and Charlotte and found that the three codes have relatively low utilization rates. As such, it appears that Iowa Telecom should have numbering resources available for a competitor wishing to participate in number pooling in these exchanges.

Pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.29(1), the Board may not issue a certificate if it determines that the services to be rendered are not in the public interest. Approval of GMCC's application at this time could result in a wasteful use of Iowa's telephone numbering resources, which is a valid public interest concern. To resolve this concern, the Board requests that GMCC supplement its July 19, 2004, application and provide answers to the following questions regarding GMCC's need for telephone numbering resources:

- 1) What is GMCC's target date for providing local exchange service in the DeWitt, Low Moor, and Charlotte exchanges?

- 2) Will service in the DeWitt, Low Moor, and Charlotte exchanges be provided by overbuilding GMCC's facilities?
- 3) How many new NXX codes would GMCC require to provide service in the DeWitt, Low Moor, and Charlotte exchanges?
- 4) Has GMCC explored the possibility of utilizing LNP in the DeWitt, Low Moor, and Charlotte exchanges?
- 5) Has GMCC explored the possibility of number pooling with Iowa Telecom in the DeWitt, Low Moor, and Charlotte exchanges?
- 6) Does GMCC have plans to provide service into any of Qwest's exchanges by overbuilding its facilities? If yes, which exchanges.

The Board requests that GMCC submit responses to these questions within ten days of the issuance of this order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

Grand Mound Communications Company is requested to file responses to the questions identified in this order within ten days of the issuance of this order.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 27th day of August, 2004.